

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 /070 W

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R 290455Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9337

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CH, TW

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON SENATOR GOLDWATER'S
STATEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 06805 (NOTAL), (B) TAIPEI 1762

1. SINCE INITIAL FLURRY OF INTEREST IN SENATOR GOLDWATER'S MARCH 15 SENATE SPEECH ON US/CHINA POLICY (REF B) LOCAL PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO PLAY UP THE SENATOR'S VIEWS. GOLDWATER'S APRIL 12 LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, IN WHICH HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER ASSERTION THAT "I WAS TOLD ON TWO OCCASIONS AFTER MR. NIXON'S VISIT TO MAINLAND CHINA THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVER GRANT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO RED CHINA. ...I WAS ALSO ASSURED ON EACH OCCASION BY THEN PRESIDENT NIXON THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT TERMINATE ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA," HAS RECEIVED HEAVY PRESS PLAY.

2. CHINA POST EDITORIAL OF APRIL 27 (QUOTED BELOW) TYPIFIES TREATMENT GOLDWATER REMARKS ARE RECEIVING HERE:

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BEGIN QUOTE:

A. SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER, REP. ARIZONA, RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES REFUTING AN ARTICLE BY ITS FORMER HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH LELYVELD PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 11 SUNDAY TIMES CONTAINING SOME WRONG NOTIONS ABOUT US-CHINESE RELATIONS.

B. THE CONSERVATIVE SENATOR FROM ARIZONA POINTED OUT THAT THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION "IS JUST AS WRONG AS IT CAN BE ABOUT AMERICAN PLANS TO ABANDON OUR LEGAL TIES WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA." REFERRING TO LELYVELD'S STATEMENT THAT IT WAS "THE UNIVERSAL EXPECTATION" THAT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN NIXON'S SECOND TERM AND THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WOULD MEAN THE SEVERING OF FORMAL TIES WITH THE NATIONALISTS ON THE ISLAND OF TAIWAN AND THE ABROGATION OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WITH TAIWAN. GOLDWATER SAID "YOU ARE WRONG. I WAS TOLD ON TWO OCCASIONS AFTER MR. NIXON'S VISIT TO MAINLAND CHINA THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVER GRANT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO RED CHINA. ...I WAS ALSO ASSURED ON EACH OCCASION BY THEN PRESIDENT NIXON THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT TERMINATE ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA."

C. AS TO LELYVELD'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAOIST VIEW THAT THERE IS "ONLY ONE CHINA" AND THE UNITED STATES MUST ENDORSE THE COMMUNIST REGIME, GOLDWATER POINTED OUT THAT "YOU FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN AND DOES SUPPORT TAIWAN'S CLAIM TO CHINA (THAT IS WE RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN TO REPRESENT ALL THE CHINESE PEOPLE) AND NOT THE COMMUNIST CLAIM TO TAIWAN. TAIWAN IS A PROVINCE OF CHINA BUT CHINA BELONGS IN THE LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC SENSE TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON TAIWAN."

D. THE ABOVE STATEMENTS CONSTITUTE THE CLEAREST STATEMENTS ON THE TRUE SITUATION WHICH HAS BEEN DISTORTED BY THE MAOISTS AND ALL THEIR FELLOW TRAVELLERS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE MAOISTS HAVE INDEED TRIED TO GET THE UNITED STATES TO CONFUSE FRIEND FROM FOE (SIC) AND BETRAY ITS FAITHFUL ALLY IN ASIA.

END QUOTE.

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2. PLEASE PROVIDE FULL TEXT OF GOLDWATER NYT LETTER. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY OTHER PERTINENT BACKGROUND MATERIALS, AND ALSO RELEVANT U.S. PRESS COMMENTARY OR INQUIRIES, AS WELL AS OFFICIAL USG REACTION, IF ANY.
UNGER

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